

THE MORNING NEWS

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"Dia di Betico" the first national holiday of the year, coming up January 25



A statue of the late "Betico"

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba is preparing to celebrate the day dedicated to their "Liberador," Gilberto Francois, "Betico" Croes, this coming Saturday, January 25. The national holiday is conducted on his birth date. He was the principal instrument of establishing island pride and symbols, such as the Aruban flag and national anthem, as well as the chief negotiator of Aruban Independence, or "Status Aparte," from the

other five islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

G.F. "Betico" Croes died in November of 1986, after being gravely injured in a car accident on December 31, 1985, on the eve of Aruba becoming an independent nation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Each year, island and visiting dignitaries pay homage to his memory with an official ceremony conducted at the Plaza G.F. Betico Croes, located behind the Cas di Cultura on the eastern end of L.G. Smih Boulevard. All the public is encouraged to attend this solemn ceremony, this Saturday, January 25, beginning at 5:00 PM. Floral wreaths will be placed at the base of his statue by representatives of parliament, the government, the Croes Family and the Croes Foundation.

Addressing the gathering this year will be Prime Minister Mike Eman and the Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture, Othmar Oduber. Following a brief musical performance, events will move to the primary stage of the plaza.

As is custom a cultural evening will follow, with musical and dance performances by several island singers, bands and dance groups, both folkloric and modern. The bands Youth Xtreme and famed island vocalist Claudius Phillips and his band will provide a rousing end to the evening. Several booths will occupy the plaza selling typical island snacks and refreshments, as well as souvenir gifts and original

artwork and handicrafts.

Traditionally, Dia di Betico is a day when all island museums are open without charge, and numerous activities are conducted throughout the day at several of the community centers. Centro di Bario Playa Pabao is known for its annual holiday bicycle rally, now attracting nearly 200 enthusiastic bikers of all ages making the run from the center, on the western outskirts of Oranjestad, through back roads to Arashi, north of Palm Beach and back again. It takes about 3 hours and begins at 9:00 AM. All are welcome.

The Aruba Historical Museum, located in Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad, will be unveiling a new exhibit called "XPO 1880" on Friday evening for invited guests, and it will be on display to the public on Saturday. It is based on family heirlooms passed down through generations, with the new young generation of Arubans invited to relate and imaginatively embellish the stories about these beloved objects, which have been passed down through the years.

Minister Oduber was present for the announcement by the planning committee of the upcoming events, and mentioned that this year's Dia di Betico will also incorporate elements of Carnival, as the holiday always takes place in the midst of carnival season. The Sunday afternoon following Dia di Betico, the Balloon Parade, one of the most colorful and charming on the Carnival roster, will take place in San Nicolas.

By Rosalie Klein

Obama, Putin discuss Sochi Olympics security: White House



Islamist insurgents based in North Caucasus republics such as Dagestan who are seeking their own independent state have vowed to disrupt the Sochi Games in an effort to undermine Putin.

In a new video threat posted on a prominent North Caucasus Islamist website, two men sitting in front of a jihadist flag warn of planned attacks at the event.

The introduction says the men were responsible for two suicide bombings in the southern city of Volgograd last month -- Russia's deadliest in three years -- which killed a total of 34 people.

Earlier this month, the State Department warned that Americans headed to Sochi should be vigilant to ensure their security.

On Sunday, several prominent US lawmakers raised new concerns about Russia's security efforts to protect the Games, despite Moscow's effort to encircle the host city in a ring of steel.

Michael McCaul, chairman of the House homeland security committee, said there had been good cooperation between Russian authorities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

But he told ABC News in an interview from Moscow: "It could be a lot better."

Another Republican lawmaker, House intelligence committee chairman Mike Rogers, said US officials were not getting all the information they needed to protect athletes at the Games.

"What we're finding is they aren't giving us the full story about what are the threat streams, who do we need to worry about," Rogers said.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin discussed security at the Sochi Winter Olympics Tuesday, amid rising fears in Washington for the safety of US athletes following terror threats against the Games.

The US and Russian leaders talked about how to ensure a "safe and secure" event next month in the Black Sea resort and nearby mountains, and also discussed Syrian transition talks in Geneva and nuclear diplomacy with Iran, the White House said.

The United States has offered "full cooperation" to Russia on securing the Games, but there have been some complaints by lawmakers here that Moscow has held back some intelligence.

The call came amid signs of subtle but rising pressure on Russia over securing the Games from Washington.

On Monday, the Pentagon said it was ready to deploy air and naval assets -- including two ships -- to help secure the Olympics, which begin on February 7.

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel had already offered American support during a January 4 phone call with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu.



Betico Day Committee with Minister Oduber



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New forum of the Aruba Academy of Fine Arts & Design begins in February



Newly restored Rietveld academy

ORANJESTAD -- In 2011, the renowned Gerrit Rietveld Academy of Amsterdam established a branch in Aruba, the Academy of Fine Arts & Design, the first such art establishment in the Caribbean. It offers a 30-week preparatory course, which can then lead to acceptance at the Rietveld Academy in Holland to obtain a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts after three years.

"Rietveld Aruba teaches and prepares talented young students to function independently, and to be an inspiration in the fields of fine arts and design," explained Alice van Romondt of the Ministry of Education, who welcomed island media to unveil the landmark building to which the school has relocated. "The academy appreciates and respects their freedom to express, experiment and discover. It also encourages the students to have an open attitude towards their environment and to be involved with others and the community."

The current crop of art student will be enjoying classes in the beautifully restored former B.J. Arends hardware

store, a stunning structure of historical worth that was unappreciated while a commercial enterprise.

The building's halls, adorned with breathtaking carved wood designs on the ceilings, antique crystal chandeliers and decorative tile floors, provide an inspiring setting and a cultural context for the fine arts environment. Glen Goddijn, working with the government on the beautification of Oranjestad, is particularly pleased with the reclamation of this building at the eastern end of the Wilhelminastraat. This project heralds more such restorations to this largely historic area of Oranjestad, home to many such charming structures.

"Aruba, and Oranjestad in particular," he explained, "has enormous potential for development along these lines. Reclaiming the cultural heritage will providing an environment that will be strongly appealing to artists." This is a primary purpose of the school, which offers a foundation in fine arts, but will have a very strong program dedicated to producing graduates with an eye for

graphic and spatial design. "We hope to see young islanders return from Holland to Aruba with degrees and skills, which they can then bring to the cultural development and beatification of the island."

The program will feature in-

structors from the Rietveld Academy in Holland, who will give classes four days a week for 30 weeks. Each teacher's tenure on Aruba will last around one month, so there will be a wide variety of subjects covered through the current forum of classes.

The program has already attracted two international students, Rachel Zonder van an 18 year old from Holland and Joela Laghi of Italy, who has already acquired her Bachelors in Fine Arts from the University of Florence, Italy. Both are very excited about the upcoming school year, and discovering more of Aruba while getting an education. Tuition rates at the Aruba extension of the Rietveld Academy are relatively pennies compared to art schools at universities in the U.S.

Inscription for the upcoming session is now open to all interested students. More information can be obtained by sending inquiries to stichting.rietveld.aruba@gmail.com. Registration forms can also be downloaded, where results of the previous classes are posted at: <http://www.gerritrietveldacademie.nl/en/preparatory-course-aruba>

By Rosalie Klein



New students Rachel and Joela with Glenn and Alice



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RBC Royal Bank continues with its campaign 'Gana cu bo RBC Visa Credit Card'



ORANJESTAD -- RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) N.V. reminds its patrons and the community that their RBC Visa Credit Card campaign: 'Gana cu bo RBC Visa Credit Card' is still on. A client who uses his Visa credit card or applies for one is eligible for the chance to win a trip for two to Brazil for the FIFA 2014 World Cup. Also, to make this promotion even more attractive, applicants for an RBC Visa card have the chance to get back all the expenses incurred when applying, by simply 'Scoring in the RBC Goal.' The opportunity to 'Score in the RBC Goal' takes place every Friday, beginning this week on January 24, and lasting until April 18, 2014. Everyone is invited to pass at any of the RBC offices to 'score a goal' and be in the game to win a vacation for 2. RBC Visa Credit Card is your better option!

Young People are welcome to join group 6 of the Social Formation Program



SAVANETA -- The general coordinator of the Social Formation Program, Jessy Ras, has announced that registration for Group 6 of the program is open to young people to register. This announcement was made during the ceremony presenting certificates to those who completed Group 3. A few days before this event Group 5 began their training program of one year at the Marines Camp in Savaneta.

Each group numbers 24 young people. Everyone involved in this program do their utmost to have as many as members as possible completing the program at the end. This, apparently, is not an easy feat. There are young people who consider the training extremely difficult and have difficulty with the discipline and the military exercises. These activities are part of the first phase of the program. Others, on the other hand, find the training very attractive.

In the second phase they go to Ensenanza pa Empleo for classes. During this phase some fall out of the program. This happens primarily due to personal circumstances. Nonetheless, there is always

a group that manages to get to the end of the program. In addition to the military training and skill training for a trade, they also do an internship to help them gain experience so they can apply for a job.

The program entails military guidance, education, spiritual and motivation. According to Jessy Ras, they encourage unity. This, she says, is one of the most important things when they enter the military part of the program. They have to work as a team and support each other. They

are together for one year, this enables them to even become friends who go out together.

Ras informed that Group 6 will begin in August, but already there is much interest. Young people between 18 and 24 years of age who have not finished school and do not have a diploma and no job, are welcome to register. They may call Jessy Ras at Tel. 522-5352 for more information. Once registered, you will be able to go through the pre-selection process. You may also call Omar Harms at 528-4938.

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Aruba's 60th Carnival

This Thursday Aruba will be introduced to the Carnival Queen of the Schools 2014!



This Thursday, January 23rd Aruba's schools will be choosing their Carnival Queens. A total of 11 candidates will be vying for the Carnival School Queen's crown.

In the youth category:

1. **Maria College**
Mavo: Milanchely Richardson
2. **Filomena College**
Mavo: Sammy van Eenennaam
3. **EPB Oranjestad:**
Maria Londono
4. **Colegio San Antonio:**
Edeline Morillo
5. **La Salle College:**
Waylenn Maduro
6. **Juliana School:** Fella de Vries

Adult category (18 yrs-up):

1. **OAA Beroepsonderwijs:** Yenifer Lopez
2. **IPA:** Xenia del Rosario
3. **Colegio EPI:** Jacqueline Lopez
4. **Mon Plaisir College:** Quxanne Maduro
5. **EPB Oranjestad:**

Zurian Matilda

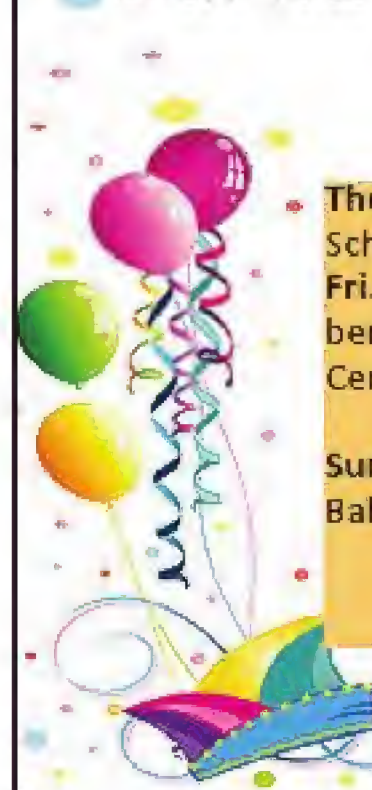
The event will start off at Club Caiquetio at 7 p.m. with a special performance by DJ Nutzbeatz, Youth in Action and Diamond Dance Group. The School Queen Committee wishes to thank Garnier, Aruba Babk, DJ Nutzbeatz, Trash by Ronchi, Maggy's, Youth in Action and Diamond Dance Group who are making

this evening possible with their support.

Tickets are available at Afl. 12.50 by all the candidates. For more information LIKE their facebook page: Reina di Scol Aruba.

Everyone is invited to come and support Aruba's students' Carnival Queen Election.

Carnaval Schedule



Thu. Jan 23 - 7 p.m. - Club Caiquetio :
School Carnival Queen Election 2014
Fri. Jan 24 7:00 p.m. Tumberto 2014 @ Aruba Entertainment Center

Sun. Jan 26 1:00 p.m.
Balloon Parade in San Nicolas

Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea
Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

Twin Tenderloin or Chicken Parmesan served on a bed of linguini pasta

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Pago Tino Warns island youth to be aware during Carnival 60



and holding their attention. The norms and values of our daily life has changed, it is natural that the older generation does not agree with what the youth of today consider normal and acceptable. However, youngsters should stop and think of the consequences of an overindulgent lifestyle, and as the saying goes, "it's better to be safe than sorry."

FADA's current campaign, 'Pago Tino' - 'Be Aware', has the complete support the Aruba Health Department. The campaign is to encourage everyone, but especially the youth, to be alert during this Carnival season.

The consequences of 'losing oneself to the moment' can result in a sexual transmitted disease or a baby, which affect the rest of your life. The overly loud music common during the carnival events can easily result in partial hearing loss, a permanent disability easily avoided. Carnival is a time to have fun, but it is more pleasurable to enjoy in a manner that is not detrimental to your self respect.

Continued on pg 5

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Health Department together with FADA (Aruba Anti-Drug Foundation) Swithg TV, Youth Hotline and Wit Gele Kruis - White Yellow Cross, is working very hard to instill awareness among the youth about the dangers of alcohol, abusing controlled substances, and unprotected sex.

Presently, their programs are particularly aimed at getting closer to island youth

Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino executive team ready for 2014!



Recently the Executive Team of Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino gathered together at Texas de Brazil restaurant for a cheerful dinner.

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Pago Tino Warns island youth to be aware...

Cont. from pg 4

Pago Tino warns: Do not abuse alcohol or use drugs. This is a way to prevent putting yourself at risk of errant behavior, for which you will certainly be sorry afterwards.

Take into account that your deleterious behavior can be posted in the different social medias, like Facebook, Instagram or e-mail, for all the community to observe, over and over.

Remember to use earplugs appropriately to protect your hearing. Use sunblock (minimal 15 SPF) frequently to reduce the risk of skin cancer.

If you are watching the parade, be sure to eat fresh food, not food that has been

kept in the sun for so long it is likely spoiled. If possible, wash your hands with water and soap, or use anti bacterial gel or wipes before eating, and drink enough fluids to prevent dehydration, especially children.

If you drive, don't drink. Refrain from indulging in casual, unprotected sex.

Carnival 60 does not mean you now have license for 'Living La Vida Loca.' Be watchful of all behaviors with could have permanent and damaging consequences !For more information please contact the Aruba Health Department at tel.: 522-4200

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Obama fails to persuade Americans on NSA reform: poll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Reforms to US surveillance announced by President Barack Obama have failed to reassure most Americans, with three-quarters saying their privacy will not be better protected under the changes, according to a new poll.

By a margin of 73-21 percent, Americans who followed Obama's speech last week on the National Security Agency say his proposals will not make much difference when it comes to safeguarding privacy rights, said the Pew Research Center/USA Today poll published on Tuesday.

The poll of 1,504 adults, carried out between Wednesday and Sunday, showed the speech was not widely followed by Americans and that skepticism of the NSA's electronic spying is growing.

The survey said half of those surveyed heard "nothing at all" about Obama's proposed measures and another 41 percent said they heard "only a little bit."

And fully seven in 10 poll respondents said they should not have to give up privacy to stay safe from potential terror attacks, the poll said.

A majority of 53 percent now disapprove of the NSA's collection of telephone and Internet data. In July, 50 percent approved and 44 percent disagreed with the surveillance program.

The shift in public opinion follows the explosive leak last



June of NSA documents by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, who has sparked a global uproar over the US government's far-reaching surveillance.

Nearly half of Americans, 48 percent, said there are insufficient limits on what telephone and internet data the government can collect, while 41 percent said there are adequate parameters on the government's spying.

The survey revealed a division over whether Snowden's unprecedented disclosures of classified information have damaged the country, with 45 percent saying the leaks have served the public interest and 43 percent saying the leaks have harmed it.

Snowden faces espionage charges from US authorities over his leaks and has obtained temporary asylum in Russia, where he has said he has been vindicated by the public reaction to the disclosures.

However, 56 percent of

Americans say the government should prosecute Snowden while 32 percent did not favor pursuing criminal charges.

In his speech last Friday, Obama said a third party -- not the government -- should hold vast stores of phone metadata, and that the NSA would need a court order to search the data except in genuine emergencies.

The US president also promised Washington would no longer eavesdrop on the leaders of friendly foreign governments and that a panel of independent lawyers should be allowed to argue in the interest of privacy rights before the secret court that oversees the NSA surveillance.

The poll found 79 percent of Americans were not worried that Obama's proposed reforms would undercut the government's ability to fight terror groups.

The margin of error for the full survey was plus or minus three percentage points.

Sporadic nighttime clashes in Kiev, tension remains

KIEV (AFP) - Ukrainian protesters and security forces late on Tuesday engaged in sporadic clashes in the centre of Kiev but the situation was calmer than in the previous two evenings despite continued tensions.

Protesters occasionally lobbed stones and Molotov cocktails at lines of police, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades, an AFP correspondent reported.

However the sporadic clashes were far from the intensity seen in the two previous nights where fighting left hundreds injured.

A group of pro-protest Orthodox priests holding crosses stood in the "no-man's land" between their barricades and the lines of police in an apparent bid to deter any attempt to storm the protest.

Police loudhailers had earlier repeated a message to the



The wreckage of a burnt bus is pictured as protesters stand in the background during clashes with the police in the center, Government using cellphones to track protesters

protesters offering them to leave their barricades in security.

The protesters were also warned that approaching within three metres (10 feet) of the police lines would be seen as an attempt on the life and health of the security forces.

Despite the relative calm, thousands of protesters remained around the area of the standoff on Grushevsky Street that leads to the Verkhovna Rada parliament.

The area echoed with the din of insistent drumming by protesters banging on metal objects.

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Fugitive US leaker Snowden 'fears for his life'

MOSCOW (AFP) - The Russian lawyer of Edward Snowden said Tuesday that the fugitive US intelligence leaker has feared for his life since reading of explicit threats against him by unnamed Pentagon officials.

The former National Security Agency contractor is wanted by US authorities on treason charges for disclosing details of a vast Washington intelligence operation that monitored millions of phone calls and emails across the world.

Snowden received temporary asylum in Russia in August -- a move that infuriated the United States and was a key factor behind President Barack Obama's decision to cancel a summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin last year.

The 30-year-old has remained in hiding but is believed to be living in the Moscow area and learning Russian. Kucherena recently said that Snowden has also been working from home as an IT adviser for a major local website.

The Russian lawyer on Tuesday appeared to be referring to an article posted last week by the popular US online website BuzzFeed entitled "American Spies Want Edward Snowden Dead".

The article quoted one Pen-

tagon official as saying: "I would love to put a bullet in his head."

"In a world where I would not be restricted from killing an American, I personally would go and kill him myself," a current NSA analyst was further quoted as saying.

Kucherena said Snowden is constantly accompanied by security guards and is considering additional security measures.

Kucherena added that he planned to ask US authorities to look into the publications and possibly ask the media outlets to identify their sources by name.

Influential US publications such as The New York Times have added to the debate by suggesting that Snowden be executed. The fugitive's lawyer said Snowden was especially concerned by comments from a US Army intelligence officer that outlined a specific scenario under which the leaker could be discreetly poisoned.

The unnamed army officer told BuzzFeed that Snowden could be "poked" on his way home from buying groceries by a passerby who is actually a US agent.

Kucherena said he did not think the US Army officer's statement was "a simply tongue-and-cheek remark for the media".

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Venezuela intimidates opponents, media: HRW report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro of runs a "feigned democracy" and intimidates opponents and the media, US-based Human Rights Watch charged Tuesday in its annual report.

"Under the leadership of president (Hugo) Chavez and now President Maduro, the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censor and prosecute its critics," the document said.

Venezuela was included on HRW's list of countries with "authoritarian governments" that have learned "it is possible to adopt the form but not the substance of democracy," the report said.

"This feigned democracy rejects basic principles, such as that governments must be accountable under the rule of the law, limited by the human rights that protect minorities, and committed to allowing free and continuous public debate," the report said.

HRW, which termed this status "abusive majoritarianism," also placed Egypt, Syria, Myanmar, Thailand, Kenya, Russia and Ukraine in the same category.

Jose Miguel Vivanco, director of Human Rights Watch for the Americas, said he is concerned about reduced space for critical journalism in Venezuela as a result of government attacks on the media and special powers given to Maduro.

Dutch orders sex crime probe of ex-top justice official

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch prosecutors are to probe a retired top justice official for allegedly raping two Turkish boys in the 1990s, amid denials there had been a cover-up in the languishing case.

"The court considers... that a criminal investigation is appropriate," the Den Bosch Appeals Court said on Tuesday of the allegations against former justice ministry secretary-general Joris Demmink.

Demmink, who was once regarded one of the country's most powerful civil servants, is being investigated over allegations that he raped two Turkish boys aged between 12 and 15 years old while on visits to Istanbul in the mid-1990s.

The two boys, now men, filed complaints with Dutch judicial authorities in 2008 and

2010, but so far no action has been taken, with the public prosecutor citing a lack of evidence.

Demmink has vigorously denied the claims and maintained that he was not in Turkey when the alleged rapes took place. His presence in Turkey has never been proven.

An initial investigation did not lead to a prosecution due to lack of evidence, public prosecution spokeswoman Thea Tjeerdema told AFP.

The new, more extensive investigation comes after the two men took advantage of a Dutch law allowing them to ask judges directly to order prosecutors to investigate.

Between 2002-2012 Demmink was the highest-ranking non-elected official within the Dutch justice ministry.

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7 police detained in death of Mexico game show contestant

XALAPA (AFP) - Authorities in Mexico have arrested seven police officers suspected of playing a role in the disappearance and murder of a television reality show contestant, officials said on Tuesday. Gibran David Martiz Diaz, 22, a contestant on the popular game show "La Voz Mexico," which seeks to find the country's next singing star, was found fatally shot on Saturday. His body was found along with that of another youth who had been abducted with him in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, officials said. Authorities said the two young kidnap victims, who went missing on January 7, were fatally shot by their abductors moments before security forces arrived to free them. Two kidnapping suspects were killed in a shootout with police during the botched rescue attempt, officials said. Recent statistics show that kidnapping is on the rise in Mexico. In 2012, there were some 105,000 abductions in this nation of 118 million people.

Brazil urged to end prison violence, police misconduct

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil must redouble its efforts to end "inhumane conditions" in its prisons and the "unlawful use of lethal force" by police, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its annual report Tuesday. The report, released here as well as in several other world cities, said gruesome prison killings in the northern state of Maranhao last month "highlighted a wider problem of violence in Brazilian detention centers." Four inmates died in a December 17 fight at Pedrinhas Penitentiary in the northern state of Maranhao. The release of video footage showing three decapitated inmates at the Pedrinhas prison triggered UN calls for a "prompt, impartial and effective investigation" into the events. Maranhao state authorities on Tuesday reported another death at the Pedrinhas facility, where an inmate was found hanging in his cell by a sheet. Brazil, reportedly with the world's largest prison population, said the seen the number of incarcerations climb by an astonishing 380 percent over the past 20 years. The New York-based HRW also accused Brazilian police of brutality, saying they "used force disproportionately against protesters" during last June's nationwide street demonstrations demanding a better quality of life and an end to widespread government corruption.

Spanish police snatch suspected Colombian hitman

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police said Tuesday they had arrested a suspected Colombian hitman nicknamed "El Nino" (The Kid), accused of killing and then cutting up two compatriots whose remains were found in a Dutch canal. The 33-year-old man is accused of murdering the two Colombian residents of Spain, whose chopped-up body parts turned up May 31 last year in a canal in the town of Pijnacker Nootdorp, near The Hague, Spanish police said in a statement. The Colombian victims had travelled from Spain to the Netherlands for a drugs deal that went wrong, and they were murdered in a supposed settling of scores, police said. Spanish police said they arrested the suspected hitman on January 16 in the town of Majadahonda, near Madrid, after the Dutch authorities had issued a European detention order. The man was also charged with drug trafficking, money laundering and extortion, police said.

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Language a hurdle as Germany seeks foreign doctors

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany is relying more on foreign doctors to fix a crunch in its healthcare system but a notoriously daunting language barrier is complicating patient care, with potentially disastrous results.

State authorities and industry groups are pushing for stricter language tests for new arrivals to ensure that along with their medical credentials, doctors can adequately communicate with Germans in their care.

Germany, Europe's top economy, is streamlining immigration and certification rules to attract foreign doctors.

But critics say the language requirements in most states do not guarantee this influx of foreign doctors can talk with and understand patients.

"It's a problem, a growing problem in Germany," Hartwig Meyer, a lawyer and head of the German Patient Protection Association, told AFP.

"There are many doctors who come from abroad, and they speak only very poor German."

The percentage of foreign-born doctors practising in Germany climbed to about 15 percent in 2012 from around five percent in 2007, according to the German Medical Association, as a strong economy and doctor shortages in small towns and rural areas pull practitioners from Greece, Romania and Poland.

Recent news reports have spotlighted stories of patients like Volker Mikat, 49, from the western German town of Guetersloh, who is suing the hospital where he received stomach surgery after claiming his doctor's explanation of the operation's risks was incomprehensible.

"When I asked a question about alternatives, he couldn't answer me at all, I think because he couldn't understand



me," Mikat told public broadcaster ARD, which did not reveal the doctor's nationality.

Hartwig Meyer said he files a few similar cases for clients each year, but no reliable statistics exist to indicate whether these are isolated incidents or part of a larger problem.

Many foreigners learning German complain of the devilish complexity of its grammar and vocabulary, with language a key obstacle for Germany in trying to fill a critical skilled labour shortage.

Iranian doctor Hengameh Bigdeli, 45, took a six-month intensive German course before starting work near Nuremberg, but still found the language's structure frustrating.

"When I first started working, I was really worried that there would be an emergency and I wouldn't be able to understand the patient," Bigdeli said.

"But when I had a problem, I asked the patient to repeat, to speak clearly and slowly, and they repeated and repeated until I could understand."

After two months working, Bigdeli said she no longer had any communication problems.

But because of qualification differences in her home country, Bigdeli, who immigrated to Germany three years ago, must work as an assistant doctor.

"After 14 years of working independently, having my own

practice in Iran, it was hard to be like a student again, working under a supervising doctor, never being able to make decisions alone. It's hard, but better than nothing."

Germany has a particularly acute need for doctors from abroad as their local counterparts age and retire, but "it's hard for patients, because they worry that their doctor doesn't understand them," said Armin Ehl, managing director of the doctors' union Marburger Bund.

"There are some medical departments in rural areas, where besides the head doctor, there are only foreign doctors," Ehl, whose organisation is lobbying for a standardised, nationwide language test for immigrant doctors, told AFP.

A report by an industry group in December indicated that there were around 2,600 too few general practitioners in Germany last year, with another 2,000 specialists lacking.

Fluid European Union borders mean immigration among doctors has become commonplace, fuelling worries about quality of care.

In Britain, a patient died in 2008 after German doctor Daniel Uban administered an overdose of painkiller on his first shift there.

Following the accident, British officials announced last year they plan to require English tests for doctors immigrating from Europe.

Sweden's medical association is asking for a review of its language policies, which currently only require proof of proficiency for those educated outside the EU.

Austria requires mock-patient interviews for immigrating doctors.

In Germany, language requirements for foreign-trained doctors vary in each of its 16 states.

Philippines bans China poultry imports due to bird flu

MANILA (AFP) - The Philippines said Tuesday it has banned imports of poultry and related products from China after it confirmed an outbreak of the H5N2 strain of bird flu in the northern province of Hebei.

The embargo issued by Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, covers all domestic and wild birds as well as eggs and even semen from poultry originating in China.

The agriculture ministry decided to enforce a ban after receiving an official report from the China Animal Disease Control Center, Veterinary Bureau in December.

The report confirmed an outbreak of the H5N2 strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus in poultry in three villages in Hebei, China, the department said.

More than one hundred thousand birds were culled in



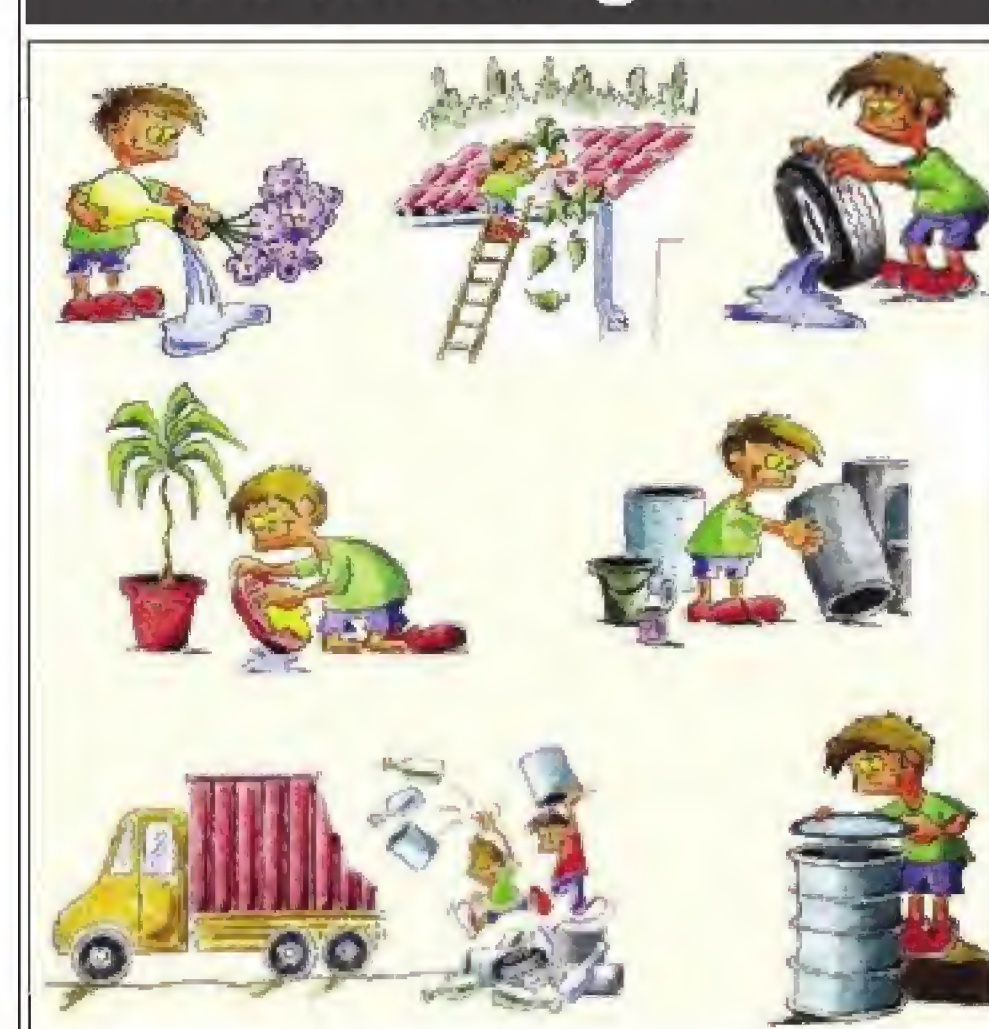
the area as a precautionary measure, local reports said.

The ban is temporary but no date has been given for it to be lifted.

In 2013 China had 144 cases, including 46 deaths, from the H7N9-strain of avian influenza, according to figures from China's National Health and Family Planning Commission.

So far this year there have been at least six bird flu deaths in mainland China, according to media reports.

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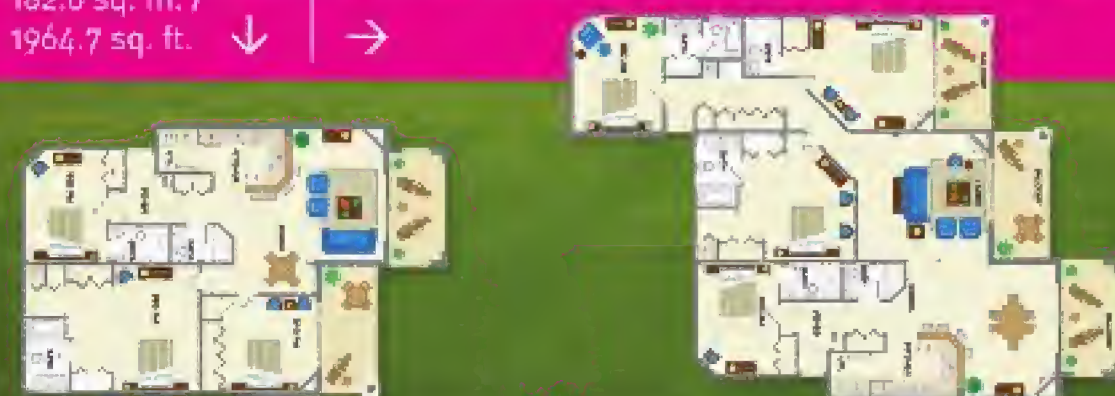


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1964.7 sq. ft.

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Yahoo big on desktops as world goes mobile

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Yahoo was the most popular online venue visited from US desktop computers in December as modern lives increasingly revolve around using mobile devices to connect with the Internet.

Yahoo continued to hold a crown it claimed in August of last year after edging past Google in a comScore ranking of online properties most frequently visited from desktop computers in the United States.

Freshly released figures from the industry tracker show that Yahoo websites logged just shy of 195.2 million unique visitors in December while second-place Google saw about 192.3 million unique visitors.

ComScore pegged the overall US desktop Internet explorers at 224,057 million people.

The lead ranking continued to be good news for Yahoo chief executive Marissa Mayer, who moved from Google in mid 2012. But



Yahoo still trails Google in revenues and advertising, particularly in the key search segment.

More visits translate into the potential to bring in more money from online ads.

Mayer has made improving Yahoo's popularity on smartphones and tablets a priority as the faded Internet search pioneer is re-invented as a "premier digital media" company.

Yahoo shares were down more than two percent to \$39.06 in afternoon trading on the Nasdaq exchange in New York City.

Big-screen "phablet" smartphone sales to soar: report

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Sales of big-screen smartphones will soar in coming years as people who game or watch videos on the go opt for "phablets" with near tablet-size views.

Phablets, a moniker created by combining the words "phone" and "tablet," will prove particularly popular among mobile gamers in South Korea and in China, where people will be drawn to high-quality viewing of online content, according to Britain-based Juniper Research.

Juniper forecast on Tuesday that shipments of phablets, typically described as smartphones with screens of 5.6 inches (142 millimeters) or more when measured diagonally, will breach 120 million units by the year 2018.

An estimated 20 million phablets were shipped last year, according to Juniper.

2013 was world's fourth warmest year on record: US



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Last year was the world's fourth warmest since modern records began in 1880, according to US government figures released Tuesday that provide more evidence that the planet is heating up. The average of combined land and ocean surface temperatures in 2013 was 1.12 degrees Fahrenheit (0.62 Celsius) above the 20th century average of 57 degrees Fahrenheit (13.9 Celsius). "This temperature departure for 2013 tied with 2003 as the fourth warmest year since records began in 1880," said a statement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last year also marked the 37th year in a row with higher than average global temperatures. All 13 years of the 21st century have been among the warmest on record, NOAA said, with the hottest being 2010, 2005, and 1998. NASA also issued its own data on Tuesday that showed slightly different outcomes, with last year ranking as the seventh warmest globally on average. However, experts said the actual temperature differences between years are very small, and that the overall trend toward a warming globe is clear.

THE STORY BEHIND EACH WEDDING WeddingsEleven

Wedding Specialist, Indira Maduro joins THE MORNING NEWS



Taking the Plunge



Aruba with video and photo gallery. It will be integrated with social media sites such as Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, so you can share your ideas as well with us and other future Brides and Grooms. Newlyweds can share with us by sending us their story, photos and video. They will be featured in My Wedding Story and inspire other couples planning their dream wedding in Aruba. We look forward to a year filled with beautiful weddings in Aruba and to share Your Aruba Wedding Story in The Morning News and on WeddingsEleven.com. A word of gratitude to Elly for taking this plunge with me. A special thanks to Sunny for his tremendous cooperation and to Joost and Linda for their creativity.

Indira

As another new year begins, new year's resolutions are made and new promises are pledged. Many love birds will get engaged and countless couples will take the plunge into marriage all over the world this year, too. But after more than a decade of reading books, collecting photos, magazine clippings and making notes, planning and coordinating many weddings on the Island, for me as an Aruba Wedding Specialist, the most natural next step is to write and share with all Brides-to-be, who are planning their Aruba Wedding. Besides writing for THE MORNING NEWS, we will also launch our new website: WeddingsEleven.com by end of this month. The website will feature different topics on planning your wedding in



The Morning News is happy and proud to announce starting this January, the collaboration of Aruba's well known and experienced destination wedding planner, Indira Maduro to write and share all about weddings & honeymoons on the island with Brides & Grooms-to-be.

Indira Maduro has been planning and coordinating weddings for over 13 years, helping create beautiful weddings in Aruba. She is the founder of Aruba Fairy Tales, which she built from scratch when the concept of destination weddings in Aruba was completely in the starting face. With her expertise and knowledge she is ready to share valuable information in The Morning News, as well as on her blog and website WeddingsEleven.com which is currently being built and

promises to be modern and inspiring.

With great articles from veils to vows, trends, tips and advise, WeddingsEleven.com will be The Website to follow when it comes to gathering information and ideas for your Aruba Wedding.

So we invite you to follow us and share your story with us or with friends and family who are planning their Aruba Wedding and Honeymoon.



Wedding Specialists
Indira Maduro

*Gravity can not be held responsible
for people falling in love."*

-Albert Einstein



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 01/21/2014

| Currency | Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
|----------------|------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.77 | 1.79 | 1.64 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.80 | 2.85 | 2.97 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 191.71 | 192.43 | 196.33 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 230.59 | 232.69 | 243.33 |
| Sweden | SEK | 25.91 | 26.63 | 27.89 |
| Denmark | DKK | 30.23 | 30.95 | 32.85 |
| Norway | NOK | 30.67 | 31.39 | 29.32 |
| Japan | JPY | 214.88 | 216.84 | 171.86 |

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Proposal offered in Panama Canal dispute

PANAMA CITY (AFP) - A consortium working on widening the Panama Canal presented a proposal Tuesday that officials here said could provide a way out of a bitter financial dispute that threatens the project.

The consortium Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC), led by Spanish builder Sacyr, made the proposal in a meeting with Panamanian officials and insurer Zurich America International.

GUPC also extended until January 31 its deadline for resolving the dispute over \$1.6 billion in cost overruns.

The group had threatened to shut down the project by Monday unless the government agreed to pay the unforeseen costs.

"There is a proposal that the parties have brought to the table which is seen as having possibilities," canal administrator Jorge Quijano told reporters during a break in the talks.

"It could provide a fairly long-term solution enabling the project to go ahead, which is what we all want," said Quijano.

On Monday, after its initial deadline passed, GUPC issued

a statement saying the "co-financing of unforeseen costs" would enable continuation of work and completion of the project by 2015.

The overall canal upgrade was supposed to cost \$5.2 billion, including GUPC's \$3.2 billion contract to build a third set of locks for the century-old canal, which currently welcomes ships that carry up to 5,000 containers.

Already facing delays, the project aims to make the 80 kilometer (50 mile) waterway, which handles five percent of global maritime trade, big enough to handle new cargo ships that can carry 12,000 containers.

Work on the canal began in 2009 with the goal of being completed by 2014, which coincides with the waterway's 100th birthday.

Top CEOs more confident on economy in 2014: survey

DAVOS (AFP) - Top business leaders are increasingly confident about the state of the world economy though they are only slightly more bullish on the prospects for their own companies, according to a major survey released at the Davos forum Tuesday.

According to the survey of 1,344 chief executives conducted by financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, those forecasting a recovery in the world economy jumped to 44 percent, up sharply from 18 percent last year.

Only seven percent of corporate bosses thought a recession was looming in 2014, a significant plunge from the 28

percent expecting a contraction last year.

By region, CEOs in Western Europe were the most confident, with half of the respondents brushing off years of debt crisis for a far rosier outlook.

The upbeat attitude was shared by Middle East CEOs, where 49 percent of bosses saw growth for this year and Asia with 45 percent forecasting growth.

The most bleak outlook for 2014 came from Eastern Europe, where only one in four of CEOs said growth was on the cards.

Major worries emerging in survey responses were a

feared tightening of business regulation and an enduring inability by governments to slash deficits and wind down debt.

Bosses in the tourism industry were the most confident about the state of the world economy followed closely by banks and retailers.

Steelmakers, slammed by years of plummeting demand, were the most negative about the growth prospects this year.

When gauging the prospects of their own companies, CEOs were only slightly more confident about prospects this year, with 39 percent very confident that sales would improve this year. Last year 36 percent felt the same way.

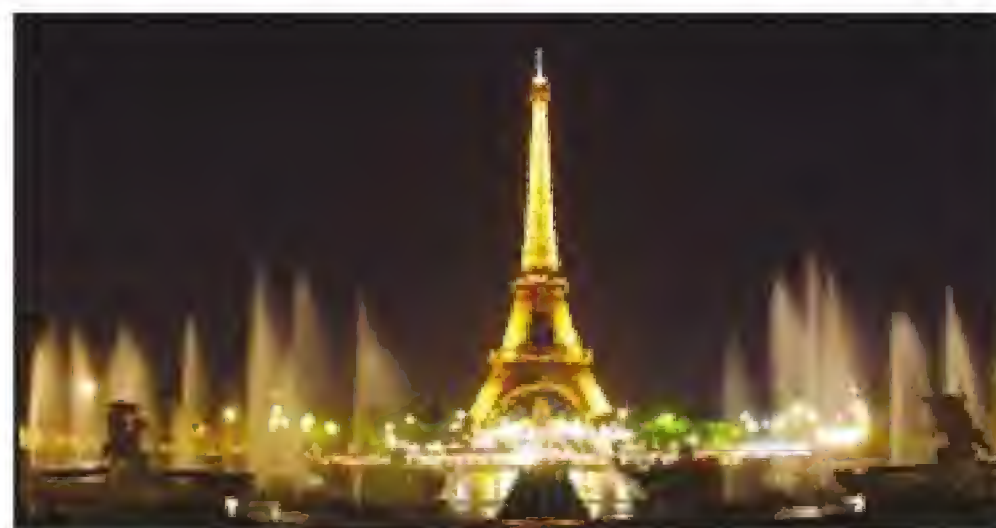
France saves 1bn euros on health insurance spending

PARIS (AFP) - At a time of deep austerity across Europe, France has managed to spend one billion euros (\$1.4 billion) less than expected on health insurance last year, the government said Tuesday.

"Not only will the national objective for health care insurance spending be respected, but we already know that we registered under-spending of more than one billion euros," Budget Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told a parliamentary finance committee.

But state health care insurance, which is partly funded out of payroll taxes, still ran a deficit of 7.7 billion euros last year. The government wants to get that under 6.2 billion euros this year.

Health spending in France,



envied for its robust public health care system, is an unwieldy section of the budget, but has risen less than forecast in recent years.

In 2013, the spending increase had been set at 2.7 percent, to a total of 175.4 billion euros.

The savings came mainly on less spending on transport, massage and physical therapy, and daily allowances for the long-term ill.

French President Francois Hollande has urged the public health sector to help cut spending by reining in excessive drug prescriptions.

Cazeneuve also said Tuesday the government had cut its wage bill by 200 million euros in 2013. The figure is a target for big austerity cuts in France, which plans to cut 3,000 state jobs this year, mainly from "non-priority" ministries such as defence and finance.



PARIS (AFP) McDonald's on Tuesday denied a magazine report that tax authorities in France suspect it of trying to avoid paying taxes on 2.2 billion euros (\$3 billion) of income from its 314 French eateries. The French magazine L'Express said in its Wednesday edition that the US fast-food giant has since 2009 funnelled that sum through its Swiss and Luxembourg subsidiaries, thereby paying less value-added and corporate profits tax than in France. "The loss for the French state is likely to be several hundred million euros," the magazine said. It added that French tax authorities searched McDonald's main office in France on October 15 last year. But McDonald's "firmly" denied the report, saying it complies with "applicable laws in France" and all its franchised restaurants in the country pay corporate tax in France.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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| C | H | I | C | S | I | E | V | E |
| A | U | R | A | U | N | T | I | E |
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| W | O | O | L | S | R | A | | |
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| D | E | I | C | E | R | C | A | |
| C | A | L | C | U | L | A | T | O |
| A | T | B | A | T | | T | R | E |
| P | E | A | L | E | | M | I | T |



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COMICS

PICKLES



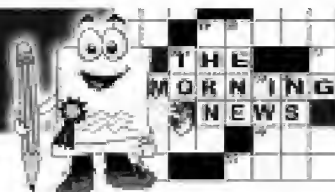
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

see our website:

www.themorningnewsaruba.com

ACROSS

- 1 Hen product
4 Not Rep. or Dem.
7 Freeze up
10 Three (Ital.)
11 "___ Gang"
12 Land-scaper's stock
13 100 years
15 Hound constantly
16 Salon sweepings
17 Quietly
19 Jacob's brother
20 Portugal's cont.
21 Team race
23 Final sum
27 Tiny drink
29 Glut
30 Turkey moistener
33 Walked heavily
34 Chafe
35 Michigan's

capital

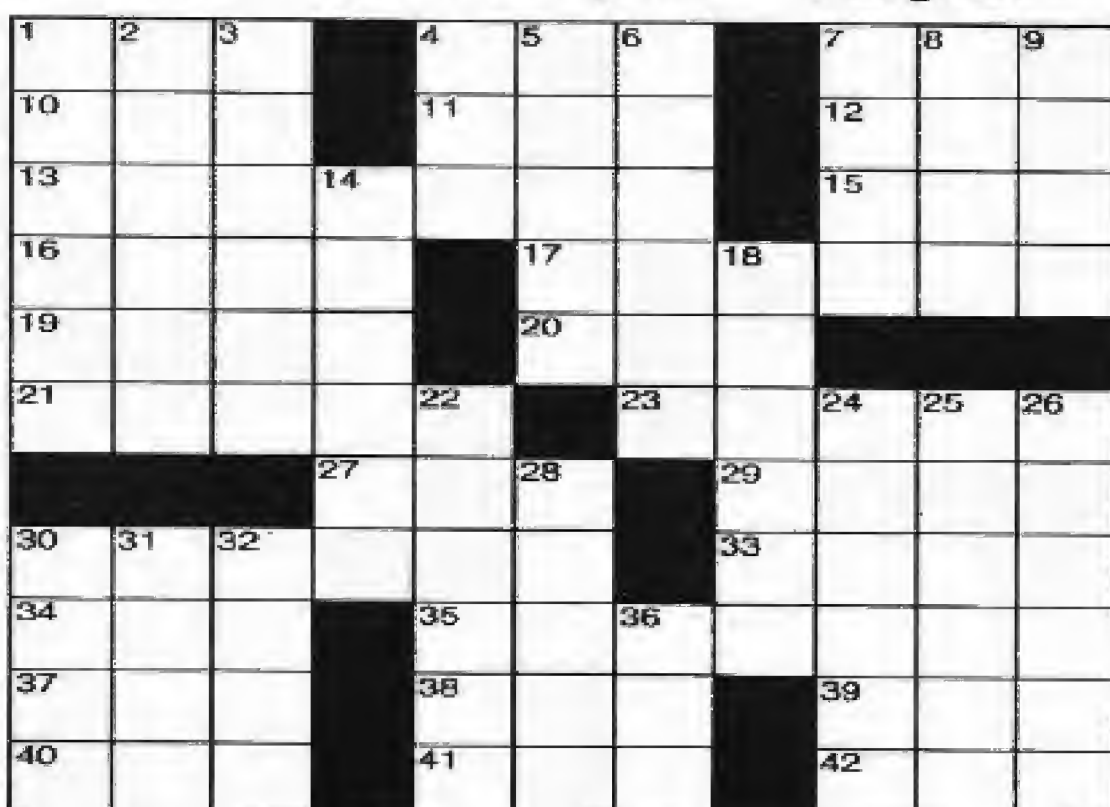
- 37 Hawaii airport
38 Coloring fluid
39 Fixed rate
40 Swimming unit
41 Retirement benefit agcy.
42 Presidential monogram

DOWN

- 1 Engraver

- 2 Travolta film

- 3 Amiable
4 Gambler's marker
5 Hospital figure
6 Remove moisture from (2 wds.)
7 "___ She Lovely"
8 Black fuel
9 Anxious
14 School skipper
18 Tops a cake
22 Produces
24 Tax on imports
25 Repented
26 Account book
28 Implores
30 Robin's beak
31 Sector
32 Pass over
36 Teacher's group (abbr.)



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CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important Telephone Numbers

HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 5274000

EMERGENCY

Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

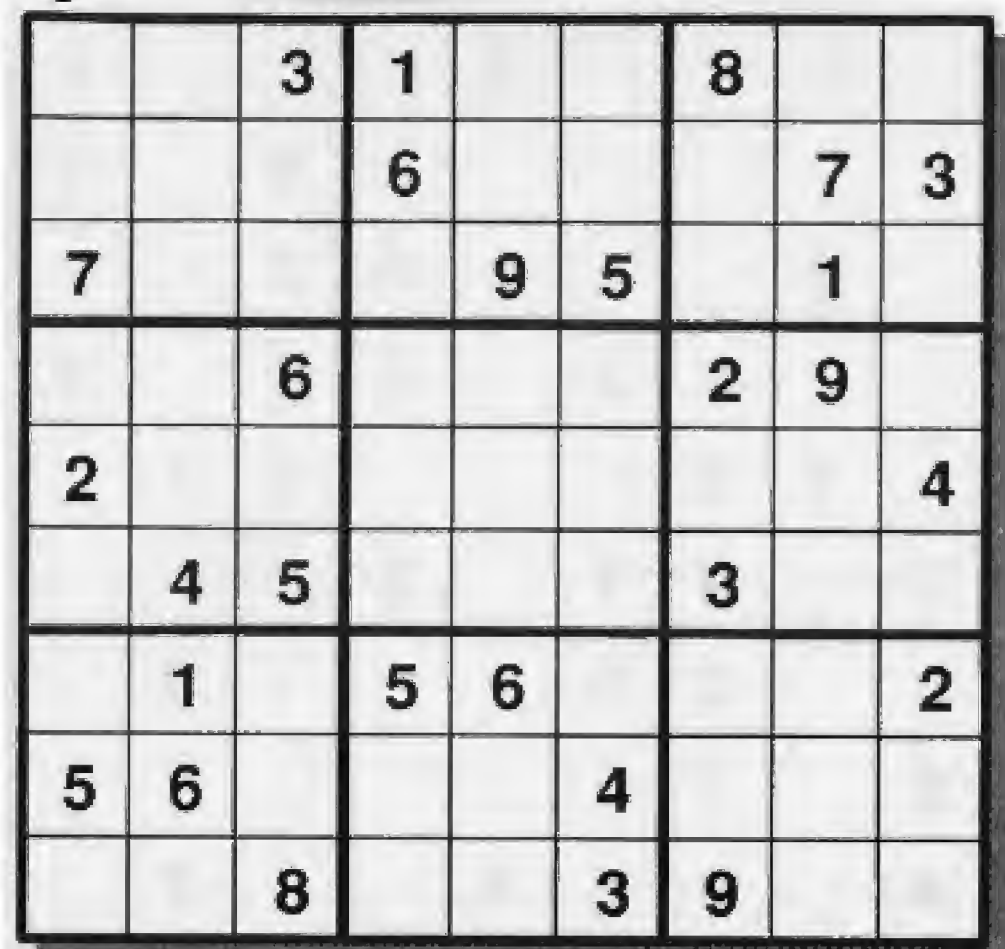
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.

Football: Gervinho sees Roma past Juve In Cup quarters

MILAN (AFP) - A late goal from Ivorian striker Gervinho helped Serie A title challengers Roma book their ticket for the Italian Cup semi-finals with a deserved 1-0 win over Serie A leaders Juventus on Tuesday.

Roma, defeated in last year's final by city rivals Lazio, will find out their last four rivals following the quarter-final tie between Napoli and Lazio on January 29.

Roma had suffered a 3-0 league defeat to Juventus a fortnight ago and with the hosts losing last season's final to Lazio, coach Rudi Garcia fielded a full-strength side at a packed Olympic Stadium.

Juve counterpart Antonio Conte, meanwhile, took the



opposite approach.

He rested 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon, a number of midfield stars including Paul Pogba,

Kwadwo Asamoah and Stephan Lichtsteiner and strikers Carlos Tevez and Fernando Llorente.

In the end, Conte's strategy backfired as Roma's far more enterprising approach paid dividends.

Captain Francesco Totti told Rai Sport: "We wanted this win at all costs... tonight we matched a great Juve side."

Asked who Roma would prefer to meet in the final four, Totti added: "That's their problem, not ours."

Conte claimed he was "happy with my players' performance" and said he had no regrets about replacing his top players with those who often warm the substitutes bench.

"The Cup is a competition like any other but we've always seen it as an opportunity to give certain players time on the pitch, that's nothing new for us."

"We need to have all our players on form for the championship and for the Europa League."

Today Milan host Udinese for their second match under new coach Clarence Seedorf with high-flying Fiorentina away to Serie B side Siena a day later.

Sunderland sign Argentine goalkeeper Ustari



LONDON (AFP) - Sunderland have signed Argentine goalkeeper Oscar Ustari from Spanish side Almeria on a short-term contract, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. With second-choice goalkeeper Keiren Westwood currently recovering from shoulder surgery, 27-year-old Ustari will go straight into the squad for Wednesday's League Cup semi-final second leg at Manchester United. In Westwood's absence, the only other goalkeeper at Sunderland's disposal apart from first-choice Vito Mannone was untested youngster Jordan Pickford. Sunderland lead United 2-1 ahead of Wednesday's game at Old Trafford.

Tennis: Five cities to host new tennis league

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Mumbai have been chosen as hosts for the inaugural International Premier Tennis League, with a Middle Eastern city to be announced later, organisers said Tuesday.

The five city franchises, which will draft and pay for a team of players, including some big stars, will play each other home and away in the new event from November 28 to December 20, they said.

Co-founder and Indian doubles specialist Mahesh Bhu-

pathi said the concept was aimed at providing a new, made-for-TV version of tennis with a young, Asian audience in mind.

Ties will consist of a succession of one-set singles and doubles matches with a total time-limit of three-and-a-half hours. The team which finishes with the most games, rather than sets, wins.

"I think the youth of this world are looking for something fun, innovative," Bhupathi told reporters in Melbourne, during the Australian Open.

"I think this format brings the biggest stars in the world, creating something new and fresh for tennis."

More details will be released during the year, but Bhupathi said teams will have a salary cap of US\$10 million and a minimum spend of US\$4 million on between six and 10 players.

The tournament, which aims to expand to more cities in future years, will fall after the traditional tennis season, which is already regarded as congested by some players.



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MADRID (AFP) - Five-time Davis Cup winners Spain will be without 13-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal and world number three David Ferrer for their Davis Cup tie away to Germany later this month. Nadal returned to Davis Cup action for the first time in nearly two years in November to ensure his country remained in the World Group with a 5-0 thrashing of Ukraine in Madrid. However, the 27-year-old, who faces Grigor Dimitrov in the Australian Open quarter-finals on Wednesday, has decided not to add the first round tie to his hectic schedule. Veterans Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco will lead the side, whilst Roberto Bautista, who caused one of the surprises of the tournament by beating Juan Martin del Potro in Australia last week, and doubles specialist David Marrero make their debuts. The Germans will be able to call on their best available side for the tie on the hard courts of Frankfurt as world number 12 Tommy Haas makes his return to the competition after a two-year absence.



MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid took a huge step towards the Copa del Rey semi-finals with a 1-0 win away to Espanyol in the first-leg of their quarter-final tie on Tuesday. Karim Benzema got the only goal of the game as he headed home Alvaro Arbeloa's cross on 25 minutes. Espanyol were indebted to goalkeeper Kiko Casilla for not having an even greater deficit to overcome next Tuesday at the Santiago Bernabeu as he made a string of fine saves to keep his side in the tie. However, they should have snatched a draw on the night as Colombian striker Jhon Cordoba fired straight at Iker Casillas when played through on goal eight minutes from time. That save extended Casillas' personal record of not having conceded for the last 592 minutes in which he has kept goal and Real boss Carlo Ancelotti lauded the Spanish captain's professionalism having been dropped from La Liga duty in favour of Diego Lopez action for over a year.


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NBA: Rockets snap Blazers' win streak

HOUSTON (AFP) - Chandler Parsons scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and seven assists as the Houston Rockets breezed past the Portland Trail Blazers 126-113 on Monday.

Dwight Howard finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds and James Harden had 22 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Rockets, who have won five of their last six games.

Patrick Beverly, who sat out 14 games with a broken hand, returned Monday to score 17 points in just under 29 minutes of playing time.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 20 rebounds, Damian Lillard scored 24 points and Wesley Matthews finished with 18 for the Trail Blazers, who had a five-game



win streak snapped.

Portland pulled within 11 points with six minutes left in the fourth, but the Rockets scored seven straight to put the game out of reach. The surge

was highlighted by Howard's alley-oop dunk which was set up by Harden.

The Blazers never got within than 10 points the rest of the way.

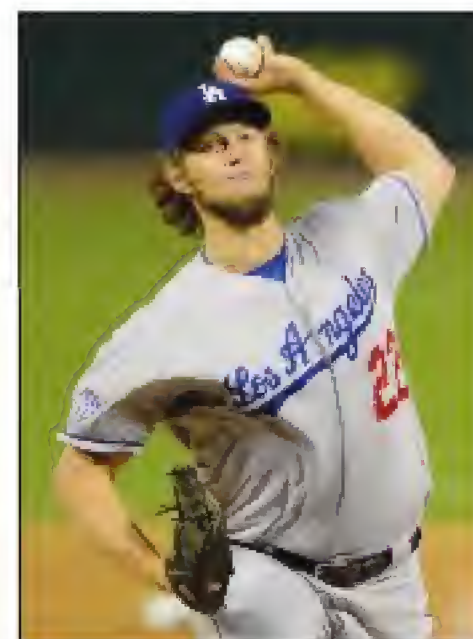
Baseball: Dodgers sign Kershaw to record \$215 million deal

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - All-Star pitcher Clayton Kershaw has signed a seven-year contract extension worth a reported \$215 million that will keep him with the Los Angeles Dodgers through the 2020 Major League Baseball season.

The Dodgers announced they had ensured the 25-year-old left-hander would remain with the team but the pricetag was the richest in major league history for any pitcher, exceeding Justin Verlander's seven-season deal for \$180 million with Detroit last year.

Kershaw captured his second National League Cy Young Award as best pitcher in three years with a stellar 2013 effort, leading the major leagues with a 1.83 earned-run average and pacing the National League with 232 strikeouts.

Kershaw went 16-9 in 2013 to help the Dodgers win the



National League West division crown.

Kershaw's 2.21 ERA over the past three seasons is the best in the major leagues over that span. He is 51-23 over the past three seasons with 709 strikeouts in 697 innings.

Kershaw won the NL Cy Young in 2011 with a 21-5 record and major-league-low 2.28 ERA over 33 starts with 248 strikeouts.

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Last week to register for the Betico Memorial 10K Run

ORANJESTAD - They are in the last week of preparation for the grand "Betico Memorial" race organized by IBiSA every year. This Saturday, January 25th the race will begin at exactly 6:00 in the morning from the main road in front of Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Sta. Cruz.

IBiSA has requested a small change in the departure hour. All participants are requested to bear this in mind; that the race will leave 30 minutes later, at 6:00 am. This is to avoid the first runners from coming in while it is still dark out.

Registration is at the main IBiSA office in the Frankrijkstraat 1 as well as at the IBiSA Sport Center in San Nicolaas during office hours. The general public is cordially invited and all those who are accustomed to participate in these great races to come out and register as soon as possible.

Local participants for the 10K Run will pay Afls.15 and international participants will pay US\$10. For the 6K Fun Walk & Run, this is Afls.10, or US\$8. Commemorative



Betico Memorial 2014 T-Shirts and race-numbers are already at the office since last week.

Today during the "Masquerade 5K Fun Walk & Run" organized by IBiSA they will be leaving from the parking lot at the IBiSA office in the

Frankrijkstraat 1. You can register for this Betico Memorial Run 2014. Registration is open until 7:00pm. You are also cordially invited to participate in the "Masquerade Fun Walk & Run". Participation is completely free.

Tennis: Wawrinka stuns champion Djokovic at Aussie Open



MELBOURNE (AFP) - Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka dumped three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic out of the Australian Open with a thrilling five-set victory on Tuesday.

The Swiss eighth seed beat Djokovic 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 in a four-hour quarter-final on Rod Laver Arena to set up a semi-final with Czech seventh seed Tomas Berdych.

It ended a 14-match losing run against Djokovic for Wawrinka, who had gone down in two previous five-setters in majors to the Serb, at last year's Australian Open and US Open.

The stunning defeat halted Djokovic's 28-match unbeaten

run since the US Open final and his 25-match winning streak at the Australian Open stretching back to 2011.

Djokovic also became the first defending champion to lose before the semi-finals at the Australian Open since Rafael Nadal retired injured against Andy Murray in the quarter-finals in 2009.

It is Wawrinka's second Grand Slam semi-final under coach Magnus Norman after losing to Djokovic at last year's US Open.

"It's amazing. I'm enjoying it for sure because I'm playing great tennis. It's a different level if I compare to last year here," "Now I'm number eight in the world," said Wawrinka.